Alphistia: Just the Facts
By Anthony Skaggs

Alphistia is a country in search of both land and people. It is a new nation-state project. It is not intended to be a utopia, but a refuge from the many dystopias already in existence.

The world is on the brink of a new Dark Ages. Alphistia would be created to provide its citizens with security, freedom, justice, order, and prosperity.

Alphistia began when I created an alphabet for a constructed language when I was 9 years old, in 1967. Soon after, I was making little shanty towns in my family's backyard, and I then developed Alphistia as a mini-country…a micronation. Kids on my street joined up, and the fantasy was fun, but politics did get in the way eventually, even as children. It all collapsed by the time I was 15.

From my teen years onward, I developed Alphistia as a model country on paper, with a slow but endless stream of maps, a phone book (!) a great many magazines and some newspapers (all one-off issues), a lot of pamphlets, and many, many drawings which depicted my imaginary homeland.

In recent years, I've outlined Alphistia as a new country on a very small scale, as an alternative to the dystopia humans have created.

In this modest way, I'd like to inspire others who feel there must be an alternative society: somewhere green, sustainable, non-car reliant, non-AI obsessed, with economics, politics and

social policy as if people matter.

Alphistia for now is imagined, that is true, but in recent years I have envisioned it as a place that could exist in the near future. My own role would only be as the creator/founder. In any case, I am older and my own political skills are not my strength (as I learned as a child).

Currently there are two Alphistias projected: firstly, a small one-square mile community of about 2500 people living according to our shared ideals, planning the creation of a permanent Alphistia. That second project would be about 300 square miles with a population of about 225,000. It would also be quite small, but Alphistia would not be a model for the whole world, just a small number of people who want to live in such a country. There already are such places: like San Marino, Andorra, Luxembourg, the Faroe Islands…

This microstate would have a mixed economy, made up mostly of cooperatives (both for profit and non-profit), as well as some small private businesses. The country's natural resources, its energy supply, healthcare system, and transport system would be state-owned.

The country would be sustainable, green, and non-carbon based. The main source of energy would be hydroelectric, wind, and solar power. Most households would not need to own a private car. Trains would connect all communities, and towns would make it easy to walk to everyday shopping and services, with the bigger towns having tram and e-bus networks.

Alphistia would be a traditional social democratic welfare state (like Sweden or the Netherlands were prior to the neo-liberal policies of the 1980s.) Housing would mostly be rented apartments, rowhouses, or small homes constructed and managed by non-profit companies. Rents would be fixed at no more than 25% of household income. For those with larger incomes, homes and villas could be built and owned.

Social policy would include full universal health insurance for all, free education, paid vacations, retirement and disability pensions, unemployment insurance and financial aid for students, low-cost affordable housing, daycare for families, and a focus on work/life balance.

Alphistia would be a constitutional republic, with a national government consisting of an elected parliament (the Kilrete), which selects a cabinet of parliament members headed by a prime minister/president (the Spor). There would be an independent judiciary, with a Supreme Court (Hoye Korte), whose members would retire at age 75. Provinces and towns would elect their own

councils locally.

Elections would be a multi-party system using a system of proportional representation, with parties from the left and the moderate right (exluding any and all extremist movements). The Constitution would guarantee full civil rights to all citizens and respect the human rights of all residents in the country.

Alphistia would have its one national language, with a simple grammar based mostly on German and Romance language vocabulary. The reason for this would be to create a new, rich culture, not reliant on English, which dominates the world as the de facto international language. Alphistia would emphasize a solid education with opportunities for lifelong learning for all.

In recent years, the far right (especially pushed by very wealthy and powerful tech oligarchs) have proposed an ideology of so-called “Freedom Cities” and “Network States” to supercede nation states. While ostensibly libertarian, in reality this system would be a form of corporate governance and control with fascist overtones. Instead of democratically elected governments, there would be one-man rule by a “king”...or nations “CEO”. There would be vassal states, loyal to a maximum leader. There would be not elections and no constitutional rights. The only human right the subjects of the monarch would have would be the “Right of Exit” i.e. the right to exile oneself.

Where would the exiles go? The Network State ideology is not specific. It implies they would go to place which would not be part of the dominant world order of interconnected corporate dictatorships. Some traditional nation states would probably survive, such as Russia and China. Other new entities might emerge, some of them affiliated as territories or dependencies of traditional nations. Alphistia might be one example of that…a microstate existing under the radar.

The “Network State” ideology is dystopian. Most people would not choose such a place to live. It would have to be imposed primarily by economic force. Oligarchs envision AI will eliminate most jobs. That would create a permanent class of unemployed or underemployed workers, desperate and compliant. Many would be willing to trade their political and human rights as a matter of survival.

Alphistia would be an alternative to this new Dark Ages, in a way similar to the role medieval monasteries played. They tried to preserve as much of civilized life as they could after the collapse of the Roman Empire in the early Middle Ages.

This is why Project Alphistia would exist.

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